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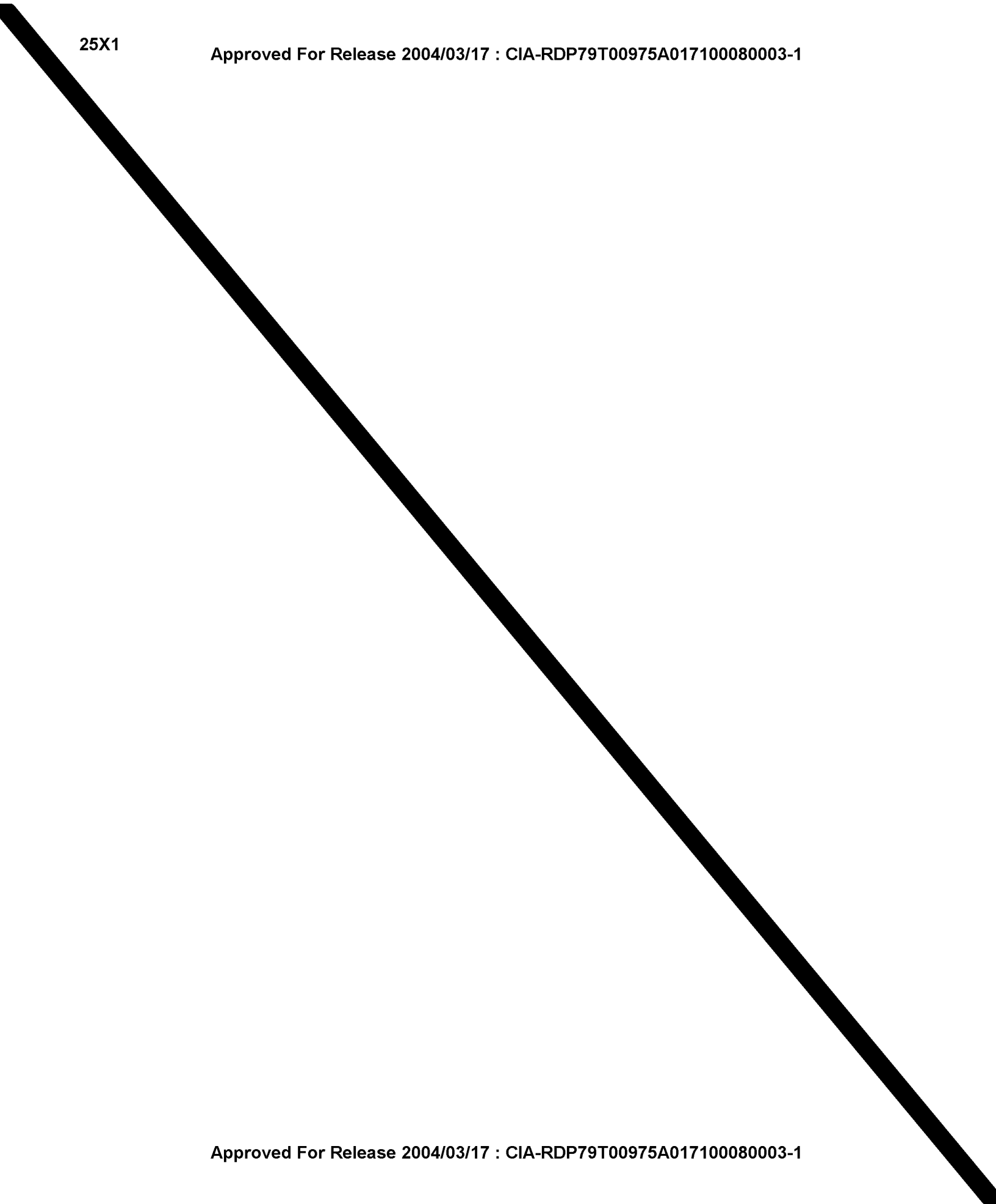

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Communist China: Peking, in recognition talks with Italy, may be willing to leave ambiguous Rome's position on Taiwan. [redacted]

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COMMUNIST CHINA: PEKING, IN ITS RECOGNITION TALKS WITH ITALY, MAY BE WILLING TO LEAVE AMBIGUOUS ROME'S POSITION ON THE TROUBLESOME TAIWAN ISSUE.

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A CHINESE SPOKESMAN "UNOFFICIALLY" PROPOSED A NEW DRAFT RECOGNITION COMMUNIQUÉ TO THE ITALIAN MINISTER IN PARIS LAST WEEK. THE CHINESE SUGGESTED A FORMULATION IN WHICH ITALY WOULD MERELY NOTE PEKING'S CLAIM THAT TAIWAN IS AN INALIENABLE PART OF CHINA. ALTHOUGH THE OFFER WAS MADE "WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT NEITHER DIPLOMAT WAS SPEAKING FOR HIS GOVERNMENT," THE CHINESE CLEARLY INDICATED IT WAS MADE UNDER INSTRUCTIONS FROM PEKING. THE SPOKESMAN TOLD THE ITALIAN THAT THE INITIATIVE NOW WAS WITH ITALY AND THAT CHINA WOULD ABSTAIN FROM FURTHER CONTACT UNTIL A REPLY WAS RECEIVED.

THE NEW DRAFT IS APPARENTLY THE RESULT OF A RE-EVALUATION OF THE RECOGNITION TALKS WHICH THE CHINESE MISSION IN PARIS SAID PEKING WAS CONDUCTING IN JUNE. THIS FORMULATION, SIMILAR TO ONE OFFERED THE CANADIANS, BACKS OFF CONSIDERABLY FROM CHINA'S ORIGINAL DEMANDS ON THE TAIWAN ISSUE. AS SUCH, IT IS A FURTHER INDICATION OF INCREASING FLEXIBILITY IN PEKING'S FOREIGN POLICY POSTURE.

ROME, HOWEVER, DOES NOT INTEND TO RUSH INTO THE OPENING OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS. FOREIGN MINISTER MORO TOLD THE US AMBASSADOR THAT HE HAS ASKED A MEMBER OF HIS LEGAL STAFF TO MAKE A THOROUGH STUDY OF THE ISSUE. [redacted] 25X1

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